

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 09403 01 OF 02 291912 Z

67

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 EA-11 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 INT-08

L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01

OMB-01 RSR-01 /190 W

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R 291810 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6046

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BONN 9403

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, GATT, GW

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN AIDE MEMOIRE ON AGRICULTURA TRADE IN MTN

WE RECEIVED BY NOTE VERBALE FROM AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY COPY OF AIDE
MEMOIRE DELIVERED TO FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY ON JUNE 25 CONCERNING
THE INCLUSION OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE IN THE COMING GATT NEGOTIATIONS.
FROM AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC COUNSELOR WE LEARNED THAT IDENTICAL
AIDES MEMOIRE WERE DELIVERED IN OTHER EEC CAPITALS ON CANBERRA'S
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PAGE 02 BONN 09403 01 OF 02 291912 Z

INSTRUCTIONS. TEXT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE:

THE AUSTRALIA GOVERNMENT HAS NOTED THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IS CONSIDERING THE QUESTION OF A MANDATE FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES' PARTICIPATION IN THE FORTHCOMING ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS TO BE CONVENED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GATT. AS MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OF THE COMMUNITIES WILL APPRECIATE, IN THE CONTEXT OF PAST CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVES AND THE COMMISSION AND MEMBER GOVERNMENTS, THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED THAT IN THE CONTINUING PREPARATIONS TO FORMULATE A MANDATE THE PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE WHICH AUSTRALIA ATTACHES TO TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SHOULD BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD.

THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE, WHICH HAS PROVIDED THE FRAMEWORK FOR MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE POST- WAR PERIOD, INCLUDES IN ITS OBJECTIVES THE RAISING OF LIVING

STANDARDS. DEVELOPING THE FULL USE OF THE RESOURCES OF THE WORLD AND EXPANDING THE PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE OF GOODS. IT IS MOREOVER A MATTER OF RECORD THAT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN GENERAL HAVE NOT BENEFITTED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM PREVIOUS NEGOTIATING ROUNDS, PARTICULARLY COMPARED WITH THE SUBSTANTIAL LIBERALIZATION ACHIEVED IN TRADE IN MANUFACTURES.

ACCORDINGLY, FOR COUNTRIES IN AUSTRALIA' S POSITION IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS OFFER BROADER OPPORTUN-

ITIES FOR PROGRESS IN TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS THAN IN THE PAST AND COMPARABLE WITH WHAT WAS ACHIEVED FOR TRADE IN MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS. FOR THIS REASON, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT THAT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ARE INCLUDED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT THE SAME BASIC OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES SHOULD APPLY FOR THESE PRODUCTS AS FOR THE REST OF THE PRODUCTS COVERED BY THE NEGOTIATIONS. WITHIN THIS OVERALL APPROACH IT WILL, OF COURSE, BE NECESSARY TO SPELL OUT PARTICULAR OBJECTIVES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT THE PARTICULAR OBJECTIVES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE A PROGRESSIVE LIBERILATION AND EXPANSION OF WORLD TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS UNDER STABLE CONDITIONS. AS ONE MEAN TO THIS END THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS OF THE VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD BE IMPROVED AND MORE PREDICTABLE ACCESS TO IMPORT MARKETS, IN PARTICULAR FOR COUNTRIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 09403 01 OF 02 291912 Z

WITH A COMPRATIVE ADVANTAGE IN THE PRODUCTION OF PARTICULAR COMMODITIES AND FOR WHOM THE EXPORT OF THOSE COMMODITIES IS IMPORTANT. SIMILARLY, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT FAIR COMPETITION SHOULD PREVAIL WITH FAIR AND REMUNERATIVE PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND REASOBL E PRICES FOR CONSUMERS. THERE IS ALSO A NEED TO AVOID CHRONIC SURPLUSES.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ACCEPTS THAT THERE ARE REASONS WHY GOVERNMENTS MUST RETAIN THE RIGHT TO PURSUE AGRICULTURAL PRICE AND INCOME SUPPORT POLICIES BUT CONSIDERS THAT, WITHOUT ALTERING THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS OF THESE POLICIES, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE ADJUSTMENTS AIMED AT ACHIEVING THESE OBJECTIVES. IT IS ALSO APPRECIATED THAT, BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS, PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE WHERE REQUIRED FOR A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME FOR THE ADJUSTMENT PROCESS ARISING FROM THE NEGOTIATIONS.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS A NUMBER OF PRINCIPLES TO BE CENTRAL TO THE FORM OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AS THEY RELATE TO AGRICULTURE. THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD, FOR INSTANCE, COVER ALL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, WHETHER IN THEIR NATURAL, SEMI- PROCESSED OR PROCESSED FORM. WHERE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES CANNOT BE FULFILLED BY NEGOTIATIONS ON TARIFFS AND NON- TARIFF BARRIERS TO TRADE ALONE. THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD ALSO ENCOMPASS THE RELEVANT ELEMENTS OF PRODUCTION POLICIES AND OTHER MEASURES AFFECTING IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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PAGE 01 BONN 09403 02 OF 02 291910 Z

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BONN 9403

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE NEGOTIATION OF " CODES OF CONDUCT" TO FURTHER THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON SPECIFIC ELEMENTS AFFECTING TRADE AND AS A FURTHER MEANS FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. ALSO, THE POSSIBILITY COULD BE EXPLORED WHEREBY COUNTRIES WOULD PURSUE THE OBJECTIVE OF ENSURING THAT THEIR AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT POLICIES DO NOT HAVE THE EFFECT OF INCREASING SELF- SUFFICIENCY IN GIVEN PRODUCTS IF THE ACCESS OF EFFICIENT PRODUCERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES IS THEREBY IMPAIRED.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NOTED WITH PLEASURE THE
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PAGE 02 BONN 09403 02 OF 02 291910 Z

DEMONSTRATED INTEREST OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES IN A FURTHER LIBERALIZATION OF WORLD TRADE WHEN, IN FEBRUARY 1972, THEY JOINED WITH THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN IN PROPOSING THAT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS BE INITIATED IN 1973. THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT ASKS THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE VIEW OUTLINED ABOVE WHEN THE COUNCIL OF THE COMMUNITIES IS CONSIDERING ITS MANDATE TO ENSURE THAT IT IS CAPABLE OF CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NEGOTIATION IN ITS OVERALL BALANCE. IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS INSOFAR AS THEY RELATE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO COUNTRIES SUCH AS AUSTRALIA, IT IS HOPED THAT THE COMMUNITIES' MANDATE DEALING WITH AGRICULTURE WILL GIVE AN INDICATION OF WHAT THE COMMUNITIES REGARD AS BEING NEGOTIABLE IN THIS RESPECT. END QUOTE. HILLENBRAND

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